

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

COUNTRY Rumania
SUBJECT 1. Pharmaceutical Supplies
2. Pharmacists

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]
DATE DISTR. 25 February 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2 25X1A

25X1A DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

REQUIREMENT NO. [REDACTED]

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1X

1. All Rumanian pharmaceutical laboratories which existed before the war as branches of foreign firms, such as La Roche, Ciba, Bayer, etc., were nationalized and centralized in the Central Administration for the Pharmaceutical Industry (Centrala Industrie Farmaceutice: CIF) located in Bucharest. At [REDACTED] CIF was using the facilities of the dispossessed firms and was the only organization in the country which manufactured pharmaceuticals. It had a plant in Bucharest and a subsidiary in Cluj. There was also an explosives factory in Fagaras which manufactured DDT and other insecticides.
2. Drugs were very scarce throughout the country. Within each regiune (largest political subdivision in the country), there was a stockpile of drugs in the deposit regional, which was usually located in a pharmacy in the capital of the regiune. [REDACTED] this pharmacy was 25X1X supplied directly by CIF or perhaps from a depot in Bucharest. Some drugs were obtained from the Soviet Union. [REDACTED] Soviet penicillin was of very poor quality. The price of penicillin, in oil, was 3,500 lei for 3,000,000 units, in pharmacies, if and when available; the black market price for the same amount was 8,000 lei. Dental cement was also imported from the USSR. Sulfonamides were imported from Czechoslovakia; they were produced in Rumania, but in negligible quantities. There were no domestically produced antibiotics. When Rumanian individuals received sulfa drugs, penicillin or streptomycin, from relatives or friends in the United States, the Customs Office usually confiscated the greater part and allotted only a small portion to the addressee. In 1951, rumors were circulating in Bucharest to the effect that for every Jew who wished to migrate to Israel, the Israeli Government had to pay Rumania a certain tax in antibiotics.

25X1X

SECRET

25X1A

STATE #	X	ARMY #	X	NAVY #	X	AIR #	X	FBI	
---------	---	--------	---	--------	---	-------	---	-----	--

SECRET

-2-

25X1X

- 25X1X
- 25X1X
3. The Ministry of Agriculture was fostering a program of medicinal herb culture. Menthol and basil are two products commonly found in Rumania. [REDACTED] belladonna is also grown in Rumania. One shop in Stalin (Brasov) sold medicinal herbs exclusively. [REDACTED] certain commercial org~~25X1X~~ [REDACTED] were engaged in trade in medicinal plants.
 4. There was a rumor circulating in medical circles in 1951 that the Rumanian Government was planning to build a penicillin plant in the region of Sinaia (4521N-2532E).
 5. Pharmacists were required to spend five years at the university in preparation for their work, one year of this training being spent in private practice. There was no shortage of pharmacists in the country. In 1949, practically all pharmacies were closed. Only three in twenty of the pharmacies were allowed to continue to operate. All pharmacists were subject to sudden house searches to ferret out drugs which they might have secreted at home. If drugs were found during such a search, the guilty pharmacist was liable to punishment for an offense against the state. All operating pharmacies were state-owned. Pharmacists employed in these shops were paid a salary by the government. The remaining pharmacists had to seek other types of work.

SECRET